

irrigated, and the Jaglag and the Khabur could never irrigate such an area. Irrigation is the second factor involved in determining whether the land is cultivable or not. 311 812

II. Qada of Dijla

Turning to the Qada of Dijla, we find that the entire region has sufficient rainfall, two rivers and many springs in the villages. In fact, the abundance of rainfall in the northeastern part of the Qada known as Jazirat ibn Amr, makes the growing of summer crops hazardous because the hot, dry period is too short. 132 133 [241]

The lower part of the Qada, from Tal Koshak to Dāmir Kapu, is similar to the Qada of Qamishli. The land is flat and precipitation, though relatively abundant, does not compare with the more mountainous regions of Dijla.

III. Qada of Qamishli

The Qada of Qamishli with the lower part of Dijla, extends from Tal Koshak on the Iraqi border, comprising the cities of Qamishli, Amuda, Derbassiya, to Ras el Ain on the Khabur which belongs administratively to Hassakeh. This region, some 200 kms. in length along the railway line and the Turkish border, is the best developed and most productive of the Jazirah. 634 311

In point of cultivability, it is divided into two parts: 311

1. A region bounded by the railway and a line running about forty kms. south and parallel to it, from the river Rad to Tal Brak to Tal Tamr on the Khabur.
2. The region south of this fictitious line.

This division is based on the amount of rainfall and the experience of farmers during the last twelve years. It is certain that the further one goes from the Turkish mountains, the less is the rainfall. That is why Tal Brak, about 40 kms. south of Qamishli, is considered the last profitable area for rain-fed farming. In the last few years when tractor cultivation expanded greatly and lands became scarce, new farmers cultivated the lands south of the parallel line down to Hassakeh and to a point about 40 kms. north of Rakka, and learned at their own expense that it does not pay unless the crop is barley and is carried on as a sideline to a principal enterprise in the northern regions. 311 [321] 241

A vast area lies south of the Rad to the Iraqi border toward the Sinjar Mountains. Farmers have been prevented from cultivating 311 241 132

MALARIA, IRRIGATION, AND SOIL EROSION IN CENTRAL SYRIA

NORMAN N. LEWIS

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THIS study of the Selemiya region of central Syria had its origin in a modest wartime public-health program. Hundreds of patients suffering from malaria in the villages of this district were regularly treated by a mobile clinic, and it soon became obvious that this work had to be supplemented if not replaced by swamp drainage and other measures of malaria control. The necessary investigations showed that soil erosion in the hills in the east of the region was partly responsible for the swamps on the plain. The swamps themselves were frequently associated with ancient irrigation works. Thus various problems of the region—agricultural, social, and medical—were closely linked in origin and development. It was found that attempts to solve any one of them alone could not be more than partially successful, and the conclusion reached was that the ideal solution would have to be radical, comprehensive, and on a large-scale regional basis.

THE LANDSCAPE

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The greater part of the governmental subdistrict (caza) of Selemiya is a plain. Bounding it sharply on the west are low plateaus, capped by a level bed of basalt a few feet thick; to the southeast are ranges of hills, part of the Palmyrene group, to which the local collective name of Jebel Bil'as may be given.

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The ground slope over much of the region is toward the town of Selemiya; drainage from an area of 620 square miles converges on the low flat land around the town. Because of the continuous subsurface flow, a perennial stream rises at Ain ez Zerqa, to flow 12 miles to the west to join the Orontes. All other perennial streams, however, are only a few hundred or thousand yards long and are used for irrigation; most of them rise in artificial underground channels. Most of the watercourses are wadis, dry or nearly dry for much of the year. In the hills these are steep, V-shaped valleys, on the plain generally wide, shallow, gravel-filled channels in gentle, open valleys.

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Figure 2 gives a simplified indication of the configuration. Hydrologically, the strata may be simply grouped into the Cretaceous limestones

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